

Finance and Administration Cabinet Newsletter
July 25, 2013

FAC Co-Chairs for KY Employee Charitable Campaign Named

Goal is to exceed last year's accomplishments



Department of Revenue Commissioner **Tom Miller** and **Barbara Barnes**, executive director of the Office of Field Operations have agreed to co-chair the Finance Cabinet's KECC efforts this year. The KECC kickoff on Tuesday, July 23 brought together agency chairs and liaisons to hear from 2013 KECC Chair, Secretary Tim Longmeyer and to celebrate 20 years of state employees making contributions to many worthwhile charities through KECC.

Barnes has been with DOR for four years, and has been involved with KECC for 14 years. This will be her first time serving as an agency co-chair.

"The work that is done by the charitable organizations associated with KECC touch so many lives in such positive ways," she said. "The stories are inspiring and make you want to be part of something this motivating."

Be on the lookout for all sorts of fundraising activities—outdoor BBQs, golf scrambles, cornhole tournaments, raffle drawings and more.

"It is an honor to co-chair this year's FAC KECC efforts with Barbara Barnes," said Commissioner Miller. "I love the camaraderie and fun events that everyone has a chance to participate in. But, more importantly, this is a way to give and to help others who may be in need of assistance. Even if you have never had to use services from organizations that KECC helps fund, you probably know people who have."

"It is most rewarding doing for others and we will be calling on each of you to make some sort of contribution in our attempt to meet or exceed last year's accomplishments," he added.

Congratulations to OFM Staff for Passing CFA Exams

With national pass rates of 38% and 43% respectively for CFA exam levels one and two, congratulations go to Kurt Kemper and Ian Blaiklock for passing their exams on the first try. Kurt passed level two and Ian passed level one. Both are with the Office of Financial Management (OFM).

"This is a significant step for both of them as they further their careers as investment professionals, said Steve Jones, Deputy Executive Director, OFM. "The standard of knowledge and compliance with ethical standards, which Kurt and Ian have demonstrated, are serving the cabinet well as we manage the Commonwealth's investment portfolio."



L-R: Ian Blaiklock and Kurt Kemper

The CFA exam is given by the Charter Financial Analyst Institute, an international organization with over 116,000 members in 137 countries. The CFA Institute's mission is "to lead the investment profession globally by promoting the highest standards of ethics, education, and professional excellence for the ultimate benefit of society." To earn the designation of Charter Financial Analyst, candidates must have 4 years of investment experience, join a local CFA society, pledge to comply with the Code of Ethics and Standard of Professional Conduct, and finally pass three extremely rigorous examinations.

The Capitol Flag Flies Again

Submitted by Tim Depenbrock, Landscape Branch

A simple worn out piece of hardware can set in motion a long chain of events. When a small pulley atop the flagpole, on top of the Capitol broke, a fix was needed. Who ya gonna call? Call the Landscape Branch!

"The wind up there is strong and erratic, tangling the flags among the ropes," said **Donna Callison**, building operations supervisor. "It takes two people at least twenty to thirty minutes to separate the ropes—kind of like doing a Maypole Dance."

Just getting to the roof is a challenge. Callison took everyone on an elevator ride to the top floor where she unlocked an inconspicuous door at the end of the hall. That led to the



All three pictures: Justin Rome with Woodland Tree Care on the first climb.

"unfinished" labyrinth around the drum of the Capitol Rotunda. Navigating the turns of darkened masonry corridors and numerous stairways, unlocking more gates along the way, Callison finally guided everyone out to the roof.

Once at the top, every new contractor or employee needs a few minutes to take in the amazing views and enjoy the scene across the landscape toward downtown Frankfort and the Governor's Mansion. In a word--awesome.

After several trips up and ensuing discussions, it became apparent that the halyard system needed to be changed from its original external ropes to an internal cable.

According to Trey Oates with the Oates Flag Co., he'd never seen something like that done before.

The Landscape Branch saw the challenge and figured it was doable. So, ingenuity prevailed, and with some engineering, persistence, and collaboration, in-house staff and contractors came up with a workable solution.

The first issue to solve was how to get to the top of a flagpole that stands 105 feet off the ground and 150 feet away from the nearest bit of pavement—plus the 50-foot tall pole itself! Could massive amounts of scaffold be hauled to the roof? How about using a giant crane (which most likely would destroy the lawn)? Or, how about a freight helicopter? All were great ideas, but surely there had to be a more elegant and economical solution.

Flagpole climbers, as a profession, simply do not exist.

What's the next closest thing to a flagpole climber? A tree trimmer. With some coercion and cajoling, Duncan Mills and Justin Rome of Woodland Tree Care, Inc. agreed to assist.

"We felt like it was an important project and wanted to see the flag on top of the Capitol flying again," Mills said. "To climb a 50-foot pole, especially the first climb without any ropes in place, is quite a feat to accomplish safely."

When it came to actually climbing the pole, Rome said, "I thought it was just going to be one climb up to complete the job." However, with hardware changes and painting, the work ended up taking several months and five climbs.

The winch system at the base of the pole was cut, assembled and finished by **Max Shouse**, Landscape Branch mechanic. Oates Flag Co. installed the new cable and provided a new "truck" (swiveling pulley system at top) and topped it off with a 12-inch finial, a more appropriate size than the previous 4-inch one that had corroded to crumbs.



The flags now fly and all were glad to see this project completed. It certainly was a unique experience and a fun one to be a part of.

REMINDER: Blood Drive, Friday, Aug. 2

Donors will receive \$10 Wal-Mart gift card

On **Friday, August 2**, you'll have the opportunity to donate blood at the Kentucky Blood Center's blood drive from **8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.** The blood drive will be in the State Office Building auditorium. Appointments to donate may be scheduled on the Kentucky Blood Center website by clicking here and using sponsor code 037-110 or by calling 502-564-7824. **Priority will be given to those with scheduled appointments.**



Go to https://personnel.ky.gov/Pages/Blood-Donation-Calendar-.aspx for details on employee leave for blood donations. For other questions contact Dana Harvey at (502)564-7824. Questions regarding blood donation should be referred to the Kentucky Blood Center at (888)775-2522. The Kentucky Safety Program and the Personnel Cabinet are sponsoring the event.

Send Us Your News and Announcements!

We want to hear about your news and updates. To submit information or articles, please send to Pamela.trautner@ky.gov.

Scared of Heights? Then this Job's not for You! The Flagpole in Pictures

Awesome pictures of the Capitol flagpole finial repairs this week. Climbing the pole is Justin Rome an employee of Woodland Tree Care. The others are Trey Oates of the Oates Flag Company, Louisville and Tim Depenbrock, Landscape Branch. Pictures were taken by Duncan Mills, Woodland Tree Care.



